

AD-A172 268

POLYSTYRENE LATEX AEROSOL: NOT NECESSARILY
MONODISPERSED(U) CHEMICAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND
ENGINEERING CENTER ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND MD

1/1

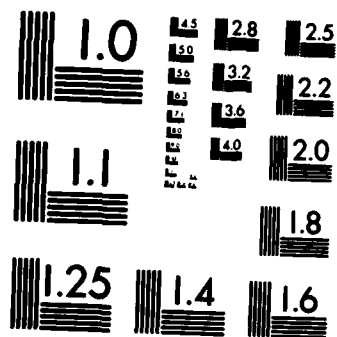
UNCLASSIFIED

G W ADAMS ET AL JUL 86 CRDEC-TR-86052

F/G 7/4

NL





2

**CHEMICAL
RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT &
ENGINEERING
CENTER**

CRDEC-TR-86052

AD-A172 268

**POLYSTYRENE LATEX AEROSOL:
NOT NECESSARILY MONODISPERSED**

**by Gregg W. Adams
Patrice E. Simmons
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE**

July 1986

**DTIC
ELECTE
SEP 22 1986
E**

**U.S. ARMY
ARMAMENT
MUNITIONS
CHEMICAL COMMAND**



DTIC FILE COPY

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5423

**This document has been approved
for public release and sale; its
distribution is unlimited.**

86 9 22 015

Disclaimer

The findings in this report are not to be construed as an official Department of the Army position unless so designated by other authorizing documents.

Distribution Statement

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

AD-A172 268

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

1a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION			1b. RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS		
2a. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY			3. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY OF REPORT		
2b. DECLASSIFICATION / DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE			Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
4. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) CRDEC-TR-86052			5. MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S)		
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION CRDEC		6b. OFFICE SYMBOL (if applicable) SMCCR-RSC-A		7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION	
6c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5423			7b. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code)		
8a. NAME OF FUNDING / SPONSORING ORGANIZATION CRDEC		8b. OFFICE SYMBOL (if applicable) SMCCR-RSC-A		9. PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	
8c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5423			10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NUMBERS		
			PROGRAM ELEMENT NO.	PROJECT NO. 1L162706	TASK NO. A553
			WORK UNIT ACCESSION NO.		
11. TITLE (Include Security Classification) Polystyrene Latex Aerosol: Not Necessarily Monodispersed					
12. PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) Adams, Gregg W., and Simmons, Patrice E.					
13a. TYPE OF REPORT Technical		13b. TIME COVERED FROM 84 04 TO 84 07		14. DATE OF REPORT (Year, Month, Day) 1986 July	
				15. PAGE COUNT 15	
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION					
17. COSATI CODES			18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)		
FIELD	GROUP	SUB-GROUP	Polystyrene latex Electrostatic classifier		
15	02		Monodispersed aerosol Condensation nucleus counter		
			Differential mobility analyzer		
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)					
<p>The use of polystyrene latex (PSL) spheres as a monodispersed aerosol from atomization of the suspension was examined. The PSL was used to verify the performance characteristics of an electrostatic aerosol classifier. Problems encountered with the monodispersity of the aerosol due to particle aggregates, suspension residue, drying of the atomized spheres, and particulate impurities in the distilled water used for dilution were examined. The causes of these problems are presented and their previous history in the scientific literature shown.</p>					
20. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT <input type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS			21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED		
22a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL TIMOTHY E. HAMPTON			22b. TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) (301) 671-2914		22c. OFFICE SYMBOL SMCCR-SPD-R

PREFACE

The work described in this report was authorized under Project 1L162706A553, CB Defense and General Investigations, Technical Area 3-D, Individual Protection. The experimental work was performed between April and July 1984.

The use of trade names or manufacturers' names in this report does not constitute endorsement of any commercial products. This report may not be cited for purposes of advertisement.

Reproduction of this report in whole or in part is prohibited except with permission of the Commander, U.S. Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center, ATTN: SMCCR-SPD-R, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5423. However, the Defense Technical Information Center and the National Technical Information Service are authorized to reproduce the document for U.S. Government purposes.

This report has been approved for release to the public.

Accession For	
NTIS GRA&I	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>
DTIC TAB	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unannounced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justification	
By	
Distribution/	
Availability Codes	
Dist	Avail and/or Special
A-1	



Blank

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. INTRODUCTION	7
2. BACKGROUND	7
3. MEASUREMENTS AND DISCUSSION	9
4. CONCLUSIONS	14
LITERATURE CITED	17

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure

1	Initial Test Results with 0.085-PSL Solution	10
2	Initial Measurement of the 0.101-PSL Solution	12
3	Size Distribution of Particles Present in the Laboratory Distilled Water	12
4	Size Distribution of Particles in the Commercially Distilled Water	12
5	The 0.109-Micron PSL in Commercially Distilled Water	13
6	The 0.220-Micron PSL in Commercially Distilled Water	13
7	The 0.312-Micron PSL in Commercially Distilled Water	13
8	The 0.085-Micron PSL in Commercially Distilled Water	14

Blank

POLYSTYRENE LATEX AEROSOL: NOT NECESSARILY MONODISPERSED

1. INTRODUCTION

The use of Polystyrene Latex (PSL) as a highly monodispersed aerosol has become a common practice in aerosol technology. These pre-sized particles, in dilute suspensions, are atomized and then dried for use in the testing and calibration of optical, electrical, and inertial aerosol measuring equipment. Since the PSL spheres are sized by the manufacturer and their containers labeled with both the diameter and standard deviation, the aerosols produced are usually considered to be monodispersed. This is not always true, since a number of factors may cause the atomized aerosol to deviate from labeled size. PSL spheres are produced by a controlled emulsion polymerization process. The spheres are then sized by electron microscopy and sold in water suspensions of 10 percent solids. To prevent agglomeration of the spheres in the solution, an anionic surfactant is added. Seragen Diagnostics, formerly Dow Diagnostics, produces PSL particles and reports a high degree of accuracy in the measurement of their size.

This paper briefly examines the previous literature on PSL aerosol and describes a series of tests performed with a commercial electrostatic classifier. Problems encountered with the aerosol size and their resolution are presented. It is shown that care must be exercised to provide a monodispersed aerosol.

2. BACKGROUND

Previous authors have reported the existence of problems when using PSL aerosols. An excellent study of inherent problems with atomizing PSL suspensions is presented by Fuchs,¹ Hinds,² and Raabe.³ Despite these and other published warnings, it is frequently inferred that the package labeling of the suspensions, which lists mean diameter and standard deviation, applies to the atomized aerosol as well as to the PSL aerosols. These label measurements are actual measurements of the PSL spheres, not of an aerosol.

The sizing technique employed by the manufacturer, electron microscopy, does not always agree with similar measurements performed by other investigators. Measurements made with low-intensity electron beams by Porstendörfer and Heyder⁴ showed sizes as much as 21 percent different than those of the manufacturer. The difference could result from swelling of PSL in the electron microscope beam; this is indicated since the measurements referred to were generally less than those reported by the manufacturer (beam intensity not given). Also observed was the evaporation of

PSL particles in the higher energy electron beams. This could lead to condensation on the other particles not directly in the beam, causing an apparent increase in their size. Accurate measurement of the size of PSL spheres requires careful examination with low-intensity electron beams, a tedious job and one that is usually neglected. The investigator, instead, relies on the accuracy of Seragen/Dow measurements.

The atomization process itself can produce particles of various sizes. If the dilution of the suspension is insufficient, a substantial number of droplets containing more than one sphere may be produced. When these multiplets are dried, the spheres agglomerate, producing aggregates of several spheres. For electron microscope measurements, this is not a problem since the aggregates are distinguishable. When light scattering, inertial, or electrical mobility measurement devices are used, these aggregates can completely alter the measurements, especially if the aerosol is assumed to be monodispersed. Hinds² gives the following formula for calculating the number of spheres per droplet:

$$X = F_v (d_a/d_p)^3$$

where F_v is the volume fraction of spheres of diameter d_p and d_a is the diameter of the droplet. The probability of n spheres occurring in the droplet is given by:

$$P = X^n/n!e^{-X}.$$

From these idealized equations, one can estimate the percentage of agglomerates of given size. The dilution of the suspension, F_v , will determine the percentage of drops containing a given number of PSL spheres. While a greater dilution ratio will lead to fewer agglomerates, it will also result in a larger percentage of empties, droplets with no PSL spheres.

The empties themselves may result in particles of differing size. This is caused by the anionic surfactant present in the suspension. After these droplets are dried, the surfactant residue remains as an aerosol particle. If electron microscopy is used to size the particles, these empties present no problem, being clearly distinguishable from PSL spheres. Once again, optical or electrical mobility measurements may distort the results. While the residue particles are generally very small, they can be present in large concentrations. Many investigators have ignored the presence of these residue particles because of their small size, but for PSL spheres of less than 1.0 micron, the residue and PSL may be of similar size. In this case, neither optical nor electrical mobility measurements will be able to distinguish PSL spheres from the residue.

Another factor in determining the size of the particles after atomization is the drying of the droplets. If they are not completely dried, the remaining liquid increases the size of the PSL aerosol. The majority of investigators assume that the droplets are dried completely, leaving only the PSL spheres and residue particles. This assumption is clearly open to question; however, there is no easy way to verify the dryness of the spheres. Capture of particles and examination by electron microscopy may result in evaporation of the liquid, thus providing erroneous results that indicate dry spheres. Only great care in drying can assure that the PSL spheres are indeed dried.

3. MEASUREMENTS AND DISCUSSION

A TSI Model 3071 Electrostatic Classifier (EC) was tested with PSL aerosols. Several sizes of PSL spheres, 0.085, 0.312, and 0.497 micron, were obtained for testing. It was assumed that these three sizes would provide sufficient check on the operation of the EC. Since the TSI Model 3071 has a reputation for product quality, it was originally thought that this test would be straightforward and serve as a useful introduction to the EC. This did not prove to be the case.

The experimental apparatus used was a TSI Differential Mobility Particle Sizer (DMPS), which consists of the TSI Model 3071 Electrostatic Classifier, TSI Model 3020 Condensation Nucleus Counter, and the Apple IIe Computer. The microcomputer is used to control the operation of the DMPS, record the count from the Condensation Nucleus Counter, and reduce the data.

Polystyrene latex aerosols were atomized with a TSI Model 3046 Tri-Jet Aerosol Generator that was specifically designed for atomization of suspensions such as PSL. By having three atomizer systems with a common output, the Tri-Jet can be used to generate three different size ranges, or three different compositions of aerosols, individually or simultaneously.

Polydispersed aerosol from the generator enters the EC through an impactor. The impactor is used to minimize interference from multiply charged particles outside the mobility channel of the DMPS. A significant fraction of aerosol particles outside of the cut size of 0.808 micron are removed while particles within the measuring range of the DMPS follow the flow. Flow rates must be set carefully to ensure that turbulent flow is avoided. Proper operation of the EC requires that a laminar sheath of clean air be formed around the aerosol flow, which will then be laminar as well.

The monodispersed aerosol leaving the EC is directed into the Condensation Nucleus Counter (CNC) to measure the number concentration of aerosol particles. This is achieved by passing each particle through a saturated butyl alcohol vapor that condenses, causing droplets to grow to approximately 12 microns in diameter.

The theory and operation of the EC have been thoroughly treated by Knutson and Whitby⁵ and Hoppel.⁶ Of special interest to this work was the statement by Knutson and Whitby of a PSL dilution ratio of 2000:1, a factor of 20 times that which had been used initially in our work. This was the first indication that a problem might exist in the atomization of the aerosol. Having examined the previous experimental verification by these authors, it was felt that the equipment was performing properly, and that the results were due to the size of the aerosol.

For the next test, sizes of 0.109, 0.312, and 0.220 micron of PSL were obtained. Dilutions of one drop per 500 milliliters to one drop per 1000 milliliters of distilled water were used. Despite these steps, a wide range of particle sizes was observed. While the smaller sizes were anticipated as being the result of surfactant residue, the larger particles were still present in numbers too large to be ignored, as shown in Figure 2. In order to determine the background aerosols present in the distilled water, data was taken with water only, no PSL, in the atomizer. Figure 3 shows the wide range of particle sizes found from the particulates present in the water. A second source of distilled water was obtained and used in the atomizer; the results are shown in Figure 4. The first source was a laboratory still, and the other water was commercially distilled. From these results it was decided to repeat the PSL experiments using the commercially distilled water, since the laboratory water was found to consistently contain a significantly greater amount of impurities.

Figures 5, 6, and 7 show the size distributions for the 0.109-, 0.220-, and 0.312-micron PSL aerosol, respectively. Before these measurements were made, the dessicant in the diffusion dryer was checked each time to ensure that it was not already moisture laden. It should be noted that the computer software does not necessarily match the measured diameters with the values given on the PSL samples. For the 0.312-micron PSL, the software actually skipped the PSL size, and the EC voltage had to be hand-tuned in order to find the PSL peak. The graphs show that the PSL size does not correspond to the peak size found by the EC for each sample. The graphs also show the continued existence of the residue aerosols and some larger particles, which may themselves be larger residue particles or aggregates formed from the presence of more than one PSL sphere in a drop.

As a final check, a sample of the 0.085-micron PSL was used again. The dilution ratio was one drop to 500 milliliters; the diffusion dryer dessicant was fresh; and the distilled water was from the same source used above. As is shown in Figure 8, the PSL aerosol was well defined among the background of residue particles and aggregates. Since this sample was not placed in an ultrasonic mixer, the original assumption of PSL agglomeration on the shelf is false. The problems with the initial data sets were those enumerated above: dilution ratio, drying, residue aerosol, and the purity of the distilled water.

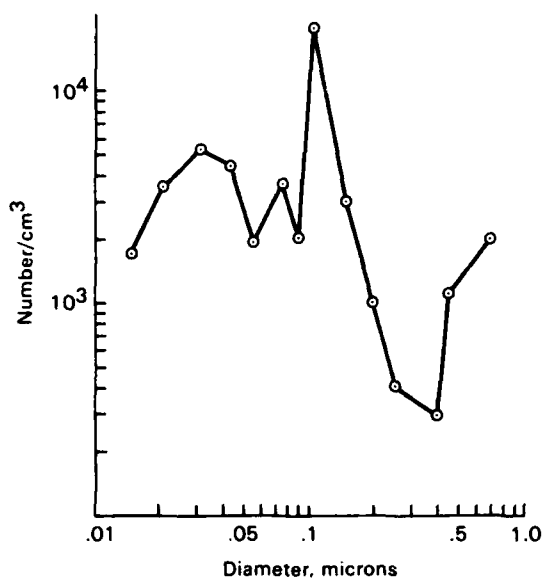


Figure 2. Initial Measurement
Measurement of the
0.109-Micron PSL
Solution

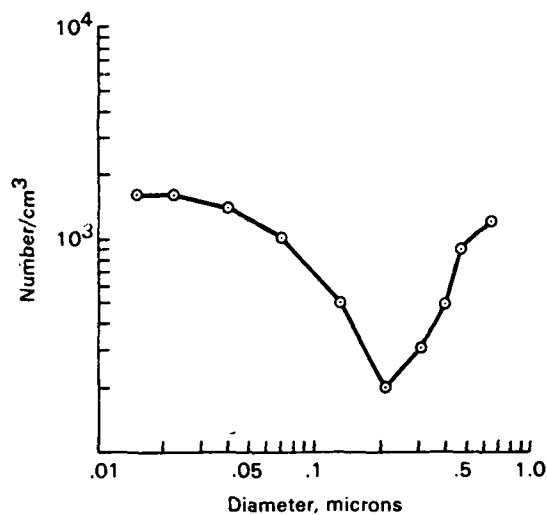


Figure 3. Size Distribution
of Particles
Present in the
Laboratory Dis-
tilled Water

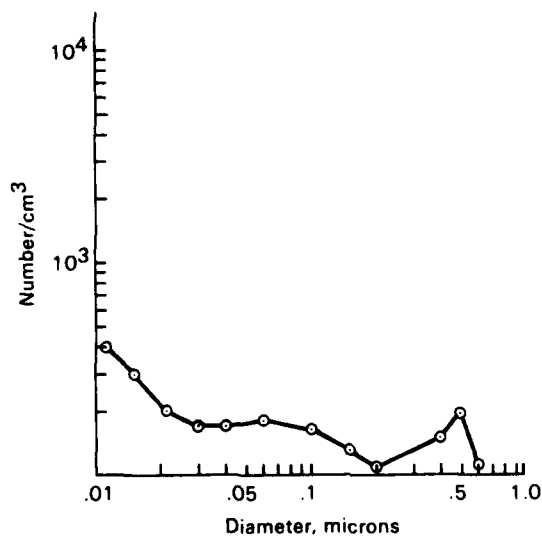


Figure 4. Size Distribution of
Particles in the
Commercially Dis-
tilled Water

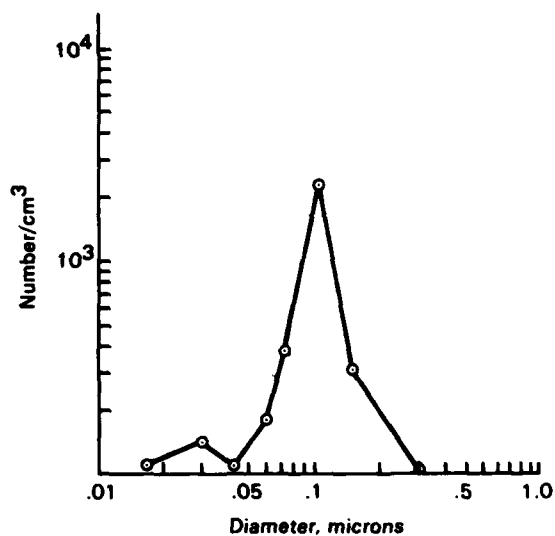


Figure 5. The 0.109-Micron PSL in Commercially Distilled Water

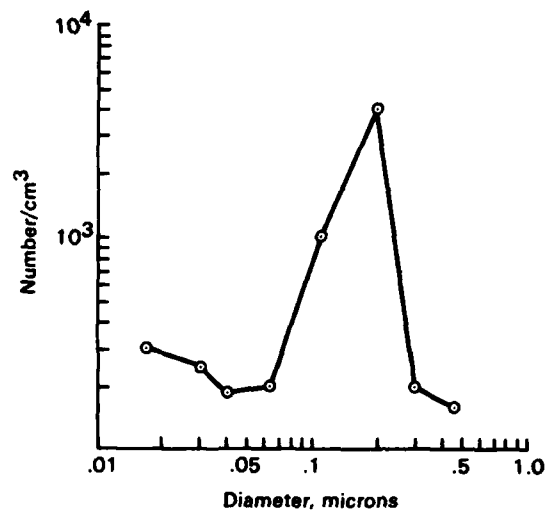


Figure 6. The 0.220-Micron PSL in Commercially Distilled Water

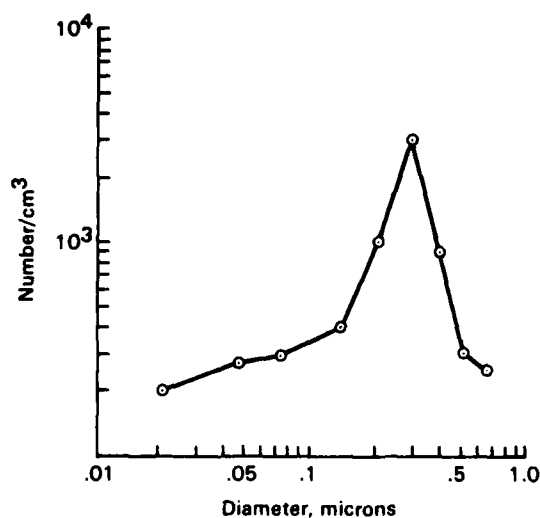


Figure 7. The 0.312-Micron PSL in Commercially Distilled Water

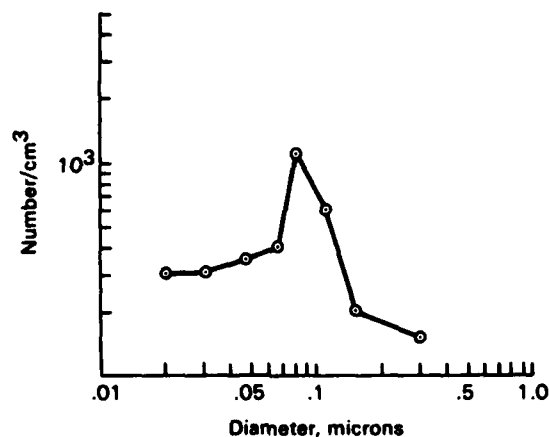


Figure 8. The 0.085-Micron PSL in Commercially Distilled Water

4. CONCLUSIONS

Several potential problems exist in the use of PSL as a monodispersed aerosol. If the measurement of size by the manufacturer is correct, the problems arise primarily from the atomization process. The existence of a considerable number of particles of sizes different than those of the actual PSL spheres means that the atomized aerosol is not truly monodispersed. This is an important factor if the PSL is being used to calibrate an optical particle-sizing device. For any use, the spread of particle sizes must be recognized, and potential problems have to be assessed on a case-to-case basis.

LITERATURE CITED

1. Fuchs, N. A. J. Aerosol Sci. 4, 405 (1973).
2. Hinds, William C. Aerosol Technology. John Wiley & Sons. New York, NY. 1982.
3. Raabe, Otto G. in Fine Particles edited by B. Y. H. Lui. Academic Press. New York, NY. 1976.
4. Porstendörfer, J., and Heyder, J. J. Aerosol Sci. 3, 141 (1972).
5. Knutson, E. O., and Whitby, K. T. J. Aerosol Sci. 3, 443 (1975).
6. Hoppel, W. A. J. Aerosol Sci. 9, 41 (1978).

END

10-86

DT/C